U.S.S.N.: 10/581,781

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-52 (Canceled).

53 (Original). A method for increasing carbohydrate absorption in a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal a composition comprising *Bacillus coagulans* bacteria, a supplementary lactase, and a supplementary fructase, wherein carbohydrate absorption is increased following said administration.

54 (Original). The method of claim 53, wherein said mammal is diagnosed as suffering from or being at risk of developing a disorder associated with carbohydrate malabsorption.

55 (Original). The method of claim 54, wherein said disorder associated with carbohydrate malabsorption is selected from the group consisting of: lactose intolerance, fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose intolerance, sorbitol intolerance, irritable bowel syndrome, short bowel syndrome, stagnant loop syndrome, celiac disease, chronic malnutrition, chronic persistent diarrhea, immunoproliferative small intestinal disease, intractable diarrhea of infancy, postenteritis syndrome, tropical sprue, Whipple's disease, Wolman disease, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

56 (Original). The method of claim 53, wherein the mammal is human.

57 (Original). The method of claim 53, wherein said lactase is provided in a concentration from about 1000 IU to about 12,000 IU, and wherein said fructase is provided in a concentration from about 1000 IU to about 12,000 IU.

58 (Original). The method of claim 53, wherein said composition further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of an anti-diarrheal agent, an anti-gas agent, a laxative, a vitamin, a mineral, an isolated amino acid, a source of dietary fiber, and an antibiotic.

59 (Original). A method for increasing lactose digestion, comprising identifying a patient suffering from or at risk of developing lactose intolerance, and administering to said patient a

Applicants:

Farmer, et al. 10/581,781

U.S.S.N.:

composition comprising *Bacillus coagulans* bacteria and a supplemental lactase, whereby lactose digestion is increased following said administration.

60 (Original). The method of claim 59, wherein the patient is human.

61 (Original). The method of claim 59, wherein said lactase is provided in a concentration from about 1000 IU to about 12,000 IU.

62-76 (Canceled).

77 (New). A method for increasing fructose digestion, comprising identifying a patient suffering from or at risk of developing fructose intolerance, and administering to said patient a composition comprising Bacillus coagulans bacteria and a supplemental fructase, whereby fructose digestion is increased following said administration.

78 (New). The method of claim 77, wherein said patient is human.

79 (New). The method of claim 77, wherein said fructase is provided in a concentration from about 1000 IU to about 12,000 IU.